STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT.

Re. Adjournment Motion.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. K. A. Mathew.

"I request that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Dewan's Statement about the declaration of H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin regarding the unification of Kerala."

This motion is not permissible as it relates to a matter involving the relations of this Government with the British Government and the Cochin Government and therefore it is not an apt subject for adjournment. It is therefore ruled out.

STATEMENT BY THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT RE : THE RESIGNATION TENDERED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

PRESIDENT : I have to announce to this House that I have received a letter of resignation from the Chief Engineer. The Government have accepted the resignation. I may refer firstly to the constitutional position. The Chief Engineer under a mistaken idea that he was in duty bound to tender his resignation by virtue of the token cut did so, and he also advanced other reasons for his resignation. He pointed out that he had been trying to do his utmost for the State but that he had not received adequate co-operation from his subordinates and the public, that he had received requests for special favours and enhanced rates to contractors which he was not able to comply with. I have the names of the contractors and the names of those who made such requests with me. The Chief Engineer after listening to the remarks made in this House and realising what is taking place outside felt his position to be such that he cannot continue in office here without subjecting himself to undeserved attacks and indignity. This Government informed the Chief Engineer that the constitutional position was clear. Travancore is not under a system of responsible Government now, and even if there had been a responsible Government, the Chief Engineer is not a Minister but only a member of the permanent service and he is not removable by an adverse vote of this House. But having regard to what he said from his own personal point of view, and having been personally satisfied that a person like him, who is undoubtedly one of the most eminent Engineers in India and who has come here and tried to do his best, has been handicapped right through by reason of the non-cooperation and subterranean intrigues both of his subordinates and contractors and has not received the support that he is entitled to receive from the public at large or this House, this Government felt that it could not, if he felt as strongly on the matter as he did, ask him to continue. Reference may be made especially to the speeches that were made yesterday. There were about 35 speeches made yesterday. In

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